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discharge of electricity through gases. There is just enough material concerning this phase of physics to stimulate the bright student to further reading. It should be added that there are many illustrations that connect everyday life with the subject of physics.

A possible objection is the attention given to the topics of acceleration and units. When it is considered that these topics are not easily grasped by college students, there is some question as to the advisability of introducing them in high-school work. Many teachers, however, by their enthusiasm lead students to master these topics, and to such teachers the matter presented in the text is desirable.

Altogether, the book is an excellent one, and has no better commendation than the fact *that students like it*.

F. R. WATSON

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

The American High School. By JOHN FRANKLIN BROWN. New York: Macmillan, 1909. Pp. 462. \$1.40 net.

There are many schoolmen who will find this book a serviceable guide in that it brings together material relating to secondary-school problems. There is a historical section, and then chapters on the function of the high school, the programme, the organization and management, the material equipment, the teacher, the principal, the pupil, the class exercise, the government, the social life, and the relation to the community, with a final chapter on present problems and future development. There are appendices on the programmes and reports of American and European secondary schools. The bibliographies at the close of the chapters are more full than discriminating. On the whole the material is fairly well edited, but the book does not seem to make any definite contribution to educational literature. It is up to date in the discussion of fraternities, the six-year high school, coeducation, etc., but its statements are safe rather than illuminating. One feels that the function of the elementary school is not seen very clearly, and that the educational situation in the secondary school will continue to be unduly limited until this is more clearly seen.

FRANK A. MANNY

KALAMAZOO, MICH.

The Maury-Simonds Physical Geography. By M. F. MAURY AND F. W. SIMONDS. New York: American Book Co., 1908. Pp. 347. \$1.20.

This book is a revised and largely rewritten edition of the well-known Maury text. It has been Dr. Simonds' plan "to preserve as far as possible the plan of the older work—a plan that has met the approval of a generation of teachers—and, at the same time, to modernize the text thoroughly." He has succeeded admirably in revising the Maury text and giving it a new and much better dress, but the revision falls far short of being an advance over the present-day science. It must be considered as being several years behind the present "physical geography."

The book is purely descriptive; it would not lead the student to scientific thinking. The treatment of the atmosphere, especially climate, weather, and